Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

FDA ADVISORY
No. 2016-107

22 AUG 2016

TO: **GENERAL CONSUMING PUBLIC, FIELD REGULATORY OPERATIONS OFFICE OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**

SUBJECT: **Public Health Warning on the Opioid W-18 as an Extremely Dangerous Drug**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) received communications from the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) advising the Philippines regarding the Government of Canada's announcement on tighter controls on the opioid W-18. The addition of W-18 to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* will help law enforcement across Canada keep this dangerous substance off of Canadian streets, and out of the hands of vulnerable individuals.

Nonmedical prescription opioid use is a rapidly escalating public health problem. Unintentional overdose deaths from opioid pain relievers has quadrupled since 1999. W-18 is a drug that originated in a Canadian academic lab working on analgesic drug discovery in the 1980s and appeared as designer drug in the 2010s.

According to the sent communications "Evidence shows that W-18 has been used recreationally in Europe and Canada over the past two years. It has been found in samples seized by Canadian law enforcement that were made to appear like legitimate prescription tablets, such as oxycodone." More importantly, it was found to be 100 times stronger than Fentanyl and being a street-level opioid, it creates availability from which illegal markets arise.

In this light, all Field Regulatory Operations Officers are hereby ordered to continuously monitor the possible availability of the opioid W-18 in the market. All local government units and law enforcement agencies are requested to ensure that the above-mentioned substance is not sold or made available in their localities or areas of jurisdiction.

The public is enjoined to assist FDA in monitoring the market and to report any suspicious promotional or marketing activities of this opioid and its availability in the market through any of the following channels:

1. FDA's e-Report (www.fda.gov.ph)
   Reports can be sent to FDA via the e-Report section found in the upper right corner of the FDA website. By clicking e-Report, you will find the form that must be accomplished (refer to Figures 1 and 2).

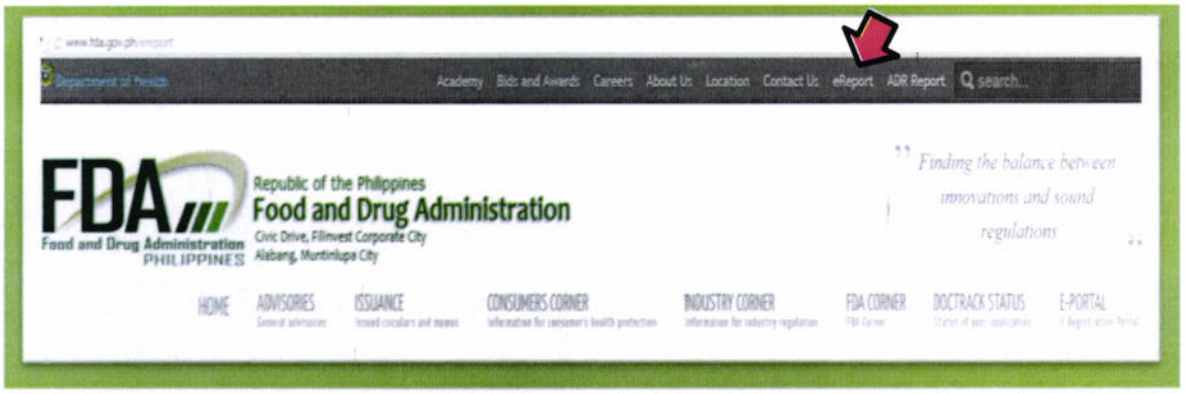

Figure 1. e-Report Section of the FDA Website

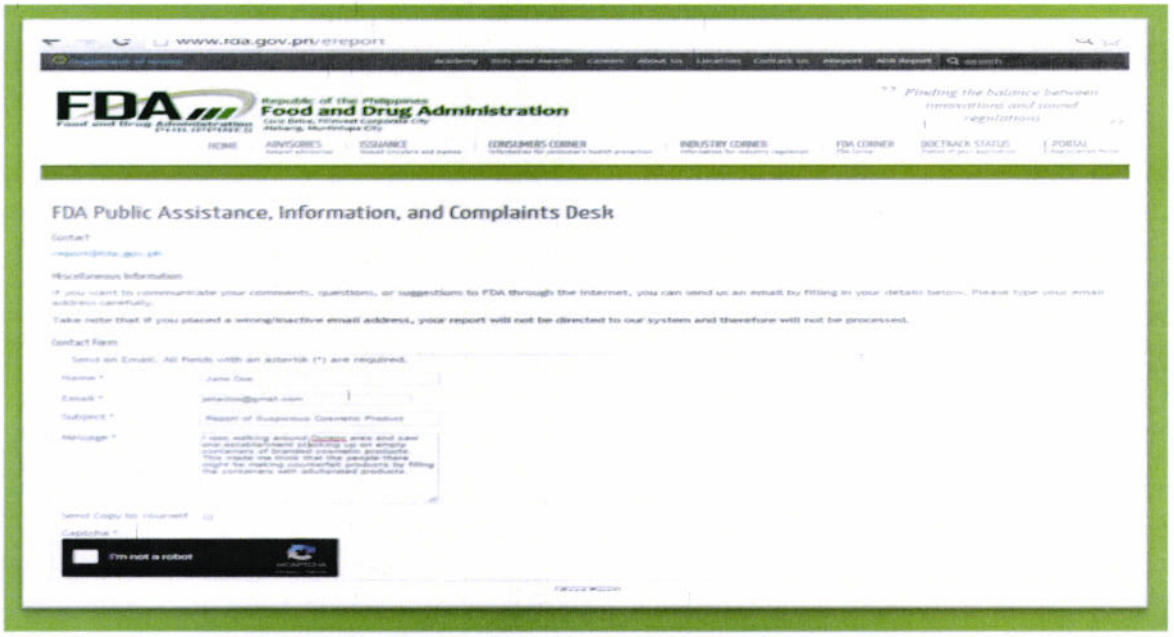

Figure 2. Filled-up e-Report Form

2. Send an email to report@fda.gov.ph
3. Contact the FDA CDRR Customer Service Hotline at (02) 857-1989.

For information and guidance of all concerned.

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